CTAB with varying incubation times. The activity of pyruvate carboxylase remained constant within 0 and 5 minutes. Similarly, different concentrations of DTNB, within the range 0.1-0.3 g/l, gave identical pyruvate carboxylase activity. To confirm the ability of the assay for determining pyruvate carboxylase activity in *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, different quantities of cells were used. Linearity between enzyme activity and quantity of cells was observed within the range 0-0.3 mg DCW.

Enzymology Study of Pyruvate Carboxylase from Corynebacterium glutamicum: Behavior of Pyruvate Carboxylase Towards Its Substrates

[0064] Pyruvate carboxylase activity was determined as a function of various concentrations of its substrates: pyruvate, bicarbonate and ATP (Figure 4). Based on the data generated, the affinity constants of pyruvate carboxylase for its substrates were determined (Table 2). The pyruvate carboxylase from NRRL B-11474 and ATCC 21253 strains demonstrated a similar affinity for pyruvate and ATP. Pyruvate carboxylase activity in both strains were inhibited by ATP above a concentration of 2 mM. However pyruvate carboxylase in ATCC 21253 had a higher affinity for bicarbonate than pyruvate carboxylase from NRRL B-11474.

Strain	$K_{M(pyruvate)}$[mM]	$K_{M(HCO_3^-)}$[mM]	$K_{M(ATP)}$[mM]
C. glutamicum			
Pyc BF100	1.3 ± 03	14.4 ± 4	0.4 ± 0.1
Pyc ATCC 21253	0.3 ± 0.1	2.9 ± 0.8	0.3 ± 0.1

Table 2: Comparison of affinity constants for substrates on pyruvate carboxylate from *C. glutamicum*, BF100 and ATCC 21253.

Aspartate Inhibition of Pyruvate Carboxylase

[0065] Aspartate inhibits phosphoenol pyruvate carboxylase (PEPC) activity. To determine the effect of aspartate on the activity of pyruvate carboxylase, aspartate was added at different concentrations in the spectrophotometer cuvette and enzyme activities were measured. As a comparison, the same experiment was carried out with PEPC in ATCC 21253 (Figure 5).

[0066] The PEPC of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* (ATCC 21253) was found to be strongly inhibited by aspartate. The enzyme was completely inhibited with a concentration of 5 mM aspartate. However, pyruvate carboxylase from the same strain was less sensitive to aspartate, i.e. it retained 35% of its original activity in the presence of 25 mM aspartate.

[0067] The pyruvate carboxylase activity in NRRL B-11474 showed a higher basal pyruvate carboxylase activity than ATCC 21253, i.e. the pyruvate carboxylase activity was about 5-times higher in NRRL B-11474 than in the ATCC 21253. Moreover, a dramatic difference in their aspartate inhibition patterns was found. Pyruvate carboxylase from NRRL B-11474 strain was activated by low aspartate concentrations within the range 0-30 mM and inhibited within the range 30-100 mM aspartate. Nevertheless it retained 50% of its original activity, even in the presence of 100 mM aspartate. Activity was maintained at 30% in the presence of 500 mM aspartate. On the other hand, Pyruvate carboxylase from ATCC 21253 was found to be more sensitive to aspartate than pyruvate carboxylase from NRRL B-11474. The pyruvate carboxylase from ATCC21253 lost 70% of its original activity at a concentration of 30 mM aspartate.

Activation of Pyruvate Carboxylase by Acetyl-CoA

[0068] Pyruvate carboxylase activity was measured in the presence of different concentrations of acetyl-CoA (Figure 6). Pyruvate carboxylase activity in both strains increased with increasing acetyl-CoA concentrations. The effect of acetyl-CoA on citrate synthase itself was studied also. Acetyl-CoA had a Km of 10 μM, demonstrating that under our conditions, citrate synthase is saturated with acetyl-CoA. Therefore, the increasing activity of pyruvate carboxylase with increasing acetyl-CoA concentration is the result of acetyl-CoA activating pyruvate carboxylase.

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[0069] All publications mentioned herein above are hereby incorporated in their entirety by reference.

[0070] While the foregoing invention has been described in some detail for purposes of clarity and understanding, it will be appreciated by one skilled in the art from a reading of this disclosure that various changes in form and detail can be made without departing from the true scope of the invention and appended claims.